

CAIM

Customer Area Inventory Management

Customer Area Inventory Management (CAIM) is a module of the Defense Medical Logistics Standard Support (DMLSS) automated information system. CAIM provides a standardized methodology to automatically replenish customer areas and enhance the processing of materiel receipts using state-of-the-art barcoding equipment.

CAIM was developed to overcome many common and Service-specific inventory process problems.

- = Different and non-standard user interfaces to the Prime Vendor systems.
- = Visibility of customer inventories only exists at sites with Central Process and Distribution or other locally developed systems.
- = Services have developed different methods to perform customer inventories, many of which are manual and labor-intensive.
- = Clinical personnel spend valuable time on logistics activities, decreasing the amount of time available for patient care.
- = Current automated processes do not allow for just-in-time delivery processes to be implemented.

CAIM BENEFITS

- = Reduces clinical personnel involvement in logistics support. CAIM minimizes clinical personnel time/difficulty in locating required items and getting products to end users.
- = Increases the number of customer areas managed by logistics personnel.
- = Reduces inventory in customer areas.
- = Reduces the number of customer off-line emergency requests through better leveling and stockage methods in customer areas.

- = Provides an automated tool for logistics personnel to replenish inventory in customer areas.
- = Reduces time spent uploading inventory data and processing replenishment orders and receipts.
- = Establishes an automated just-in-time delivery process.

CAIM SCOPE

The scope of CAIM includes assisting the customer in identifying materiel items required in patient care and clinical support; providing automated support for requesting materiel items; and providing for the physical inventory, ordering, storage, transferring, receipt, and tracking of patient care related materiel up to the point of use. CAIM is a user-friendly inventory management tool that can be used to establish, maintain, and supply local storage of items.

CAIM is designed to enhance management and efficiency of materiel support within the customer's workplace. It has been designed with the flexibility to support different customers in a manner most appropriate for their size. A CAIM site has the ability to place orders directly with Prime Vendor, Stock Room, or legacy systems. CAIM supports different types of fund ownership for customer area inventories.



ELEMENTS OF CAIM

- ≡ CAIM identifies stock in customer areas by core items, static items, critical items, items for automatic or manual leveling, and Source of Supply.
- ≡ CAIM manages customer area stock items by establishing stockage levels; establishing inventory schedules; showing asset visibility which allows for better product quality assurance; capturing and retaining two years of demand history; providing seasonal leveling; quick response to historical peak demands; and issuing materiel in economical package sizes based on customer usage.
- ≡ CAIM builds orders for multiple Sources of Supply. CAIM supports inventory funded by O&M Funds and Stock Funds.

An Automated System for the Logistician

- ≡ CAIM assists in reducing input errors by using on-line inventories, and automatically identifying customer area inventories by location using bar-code technology.
- ≡ CAIM provides customers with materiel by Unit of Measure or Unit of Issue in different customer area locations.
- ≡ CAIM uses radio frequency automated identification technology to support these new inventory practices.